

Marriage Ceremony

(Direct the couple to turn and face each other while holding hands)

We are gathered here in the presence of these witnesses (this witness) to join _____ and _____ together in matrimony. The contract of marriage is a most solemn one and not to be entered into lightly, but thoughtfully and seriously and with a deep realization of its obligations and responsibilities. If anyone here can show just cause why these two should not be lawfully joined together, let them speak now or forever hold their peace.

(To each person in turn, giving their names as appropriate)

_____, will you take _____ here present to be your lawful wedded *spouse*?

ANSWER: I will

_____, will you take _____ here present to be your lawful wedded *spouse*?

ANSWER: I will

REPEAT AFTER ME: I, _____ take you _____, for my lawful wedded *spouse* to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death do us part.

(To the other person)

REPEAT AFTER ME: I, _____ take you _____, for my lawful wedded *spouse*, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death do us part.

(If rings are used, the following is to be repeated by each person as they exchange rings)

With this ring, I thee wed.

(If rings are not exchanged the following is to be repeated by any person not who is not giving the other a ring)

REPEAT AFTER ME: I, _____, take thee, _____, to be my lawful wedded *spouse*.

By the power and authority vested by law in me (state your name) as *the Clerk of Circuit Court/Authorized Deputy Clerk* for Calvert County, Maryland, I now pronounce you lawfully married under the laws of this State.

Optional - You may kiss.